

FACTSHEET

DELIVERING TECHNOLOGY ACCESS TO AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES



Neighborhood Networks centers make a positive impact in America's communities.

Neighborhood Networks Centers and the Childcare Challenge

Access to safe, reliable, and affordable childcare is critical for residents seeking self-sufficiency. Neighborhood Networks centers are addressing childcare needs in their communities through a variety of traditional and innovative approaches.

Why is childcare an important component of Neighborhood Networks centers?

Neighborhood Networks centers give residents the opportunity to move toward self-sufficiency. To complete job training and education classes and to secure and retain jobs, parents must have access to responsible, affordable childcare—yet an adequate supply is lacking in most communities. Employers and local officials cite childcare as a major barrier for low-income workers who are struggling to find and keep jobs. If residents are to achieve self-sufficiency, childcare must be part of the solution, not part of the problem. In many communities Neighborhood Networks centers are helping parents access childcare.

How can centers get involved?

Neighborhood Networks centers are responding to childcare needs in various ways. For example, many provide onsite afterschool and summer programs such as tutoring and academic enrichment, mentoring, recreation, and adult supervision for

children and youth when their parents are not at home. These programs range from homework clubs supervised by center staff to more comprehensive programs operated by nonprofit groups.

By working with community partners, centers can expand and enhance their afterschool programs. Nonprofit organizations supply staff, equipment, and other resources and cooperate with centers to secure grants for afterschool and summer programs. Following are possible nonprofits with which centers can collaborate:

- **Colleges** often seek community partners as sites for student internships and service projects or to qualify for grants (for example, HUD's Office of University Partnership grants: www.oup.org). Centers can also contact one of Neighborhood Networks' national partners, the American Association of Community Colleges (www.aacc.nche.edu), to explore community college partnerships.
- Centers can contact **local and national service organizations**, such as the YMCA (www.ymca.net/index.jsp), the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org), or 4-H (www.4-h.org) to find out about resources they can provide to Neighborhood Networks afterschool programs.



Helping residents access community childcare resources

Neighborhood Networks centers can provide information and referral to childcare resources in the community:

- **Locate childcare.** Computer learning centers can give residents access to on-line information about childcare resources such as how to find a quality childcare program and databases of childcare centers by ZIP Code. Useful Web sites include the National Child Care Information Center (www.nccic.org), Child Care Aware (www.childcareaware.org), and Afterschool.gov (www.afterschool.gov/cgi-bin/home.pl).
- **Head Start.** Neighborhood Networks centers can connect eligible families to local Head Start programs that provide comprehensive services, including childcare, for preschool children in most major cities and in many rural communities. Contact the local school district, the county social services office, or the National Head Start Association (www.nhsa.org).
- **One-Stop Centers.** Through Neighborhood Networks' national partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the centers have an Internet link (www.nbpjobs.org/misc/Neighbor.asp) to DOL's nationwide network of One-Stop Centers. DOL centers can help jobseekers find childcare, including childcare linked to welfare-to-work programs.
- **Linking residents to childcare careers.** To increase available childcare and help residents move toward self-sufficiency, Neighborhood Networks centers can help residents find:
 - ❑ Programs, such as childcare certification, that train residents for living-wage jobs in childcare centers.
 - ❑ Programs that train residents to develop their own home-based childcare businesses.

Financial resources for childcare

Neighborhood Networks centers connect residents to information on financial resources for childcare:

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Family Assistance.** Up to 30 percent of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds received by states can be transferred to the Childcare and Development Block Grant fund to pay for the direct costs of childcare. Welfare-to-work funds can also be used. For more information, contact the state or county welfare office or the HHS Office of Family Assistance at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofa/ or call (202) 401-9275.
- **The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.** This federal income tax credit allows parents to claim a credit for a portion of their childcare expenses while they are at work. Many states have similar provisions for state income taxes. Contact the local Internal Revenue Service office at www.irs.gov or call (800) 829-1040.

Online childcare resources

- Afterschool Alliance
www.afterschoolalliance.org
- Child Care Aware
www.childcareaware.org/
- Child Care Bureau
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ccb
- Children's Foundation
www.childrensfoundation.net/
- Head Start
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb
- The National Association for Family Child Care
www.nafcc.org
- National Child Care Information Center
www.nccic.org

For more information, contact:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Copies of this fact sheet are available in Spanish and can be requested from the Neighborhood Networks toll-free information center at (888) 312-2743.